

on us by the federal government. There are problems out there, not necessarily as severe as the reaction that the federal government has had to the problems. Senator Schmit's point of distance to groundwater is very well taken on priorities in this issue as well as solid waste disposal facilities. It's a very well taken point. The problem is the feds don't address that so you have to have this a financial...show proof of financial responsibility to stay in operation. We're trying to provide that. These folks are also going to have to upgrade their systems. We haven't even begun to address that. If they can't do it, then they will close their doors for that reason and the larger operations may or may not move in to fill that void. Again, when you lose that small gas station, service station, and have it replaced by a mini-mart, you have lost a unique little institution that I am very proud of and familiar with, since I grew up in one, and it will be a loss for the community as a whole. But I feel we will have a distribution system out there to a certain extent, not necessarily as widespread as we have right now and not necessarily the type of institution that we would all like to see out there. But we must now, I feel, support LB 409 and move it along and continue to look at it year after year to see if we are doing the right thing and if there are other viable options that we can propose to address this problem. I would urge you to support 409.

SPEAKER BAACK: Any other discussion on the advancement of LB 409? Senator Rod Johnson, do you wish to close?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would. First of all, I would like to thank the body's indulgence in tackling this very complicated, complex and sometimes confusing issue. But let me assure you it is an extremely important issue to the petroleum marketers of our state. It is important to those who pay petroleum taxes and I think we, hopefully, have done a responsible thing in adopting amendments that we have today and advancing this bill. As I mentioned earlier on the last amendment, we do have some milestones or timetables to meet, so I would like to ask the Speaker and this body's indulgence to unanimously consent to expediting this bill to Final Reading because we have an April 26, 1991 deadline that has to be met. If we can get the bill passed by that date, then we can take...or the state can take this new proposal to the EPA and show them that we have, in fact, enacted a new law to, hopefully, meet some of the concerns that EPA had with our current fund. So if it is in order, Mr. Clerk, I would like to